

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 NIC-01 AID-20 OMB-01 PC-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2333

INFO AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

USCINCSO

UNCLAS BBGOTA 3376

E O 11652 NA

TAGS PINT CO

SUBJ: ELECTION REPORT; PRELIMINARY TOTALS; TRENDS; VICTORY AND
CONCESSION STATEMENTS

USCINCSO FOR J2

1. HERWITH PARTIAL VOTE TOTALS FROM NATIONAL CIVIL REGISTRY AS
OF 6:15 AM APR 22:

LOPEZ (LIBERAL) 2,019,875

GOMEZ (CONSERVATIVE) 1,266,392

MRS MORENO (ANAPO) 381,830

ECHEVERRI (UNO) 96,474

DUARTE (CD) 3,798

3,776,303

NATIONAL CIVIL REGISTRY HAS SHUT DOWN ITS VOTE COUNTING OPERATIONS
TO ALLOW PERSONNEL TO SLEEP. COUNTING WILL RESUME AT 2 PM LOCAL

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TIME.

2. ACCORDING TO THE FOREGOING STATISTICS, LOPEZ HAS OVER FIFTY THREE PERCENT OF ALL VOTES CAST. NORMALLY, WE WOULD EXPECT THAT PERCENTAGE TO FALL AS RETURNS CAME IN FROM THE COUNTRY-SIDE, WHERE GOMEZ SHOULD BE STRONGER. IN THIS CASE HOWEVER, THE TOTALS GIVEN ABOVE INCLUDE ONLY 144,000 VOTES FROM BOGOTA, WHERE AT LEAST 600,000 VOTES WERE CAST, MOST OF THEM FOR LOPEZ. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE CAN SAY THAT CURRENT TRENDS FAVOR A RETENTION BY THE LIBERALS OF THEIR ABSOLUTE MAJORITY.

3. PRES-ELECT ALFONSO LOPEZ MICHELSEN ISSUED A VICTORY STATEMENT SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT IN WHICH HE PRAISED THE LIBERAL PARTY AND GAVE CREDIT TO HIS SUPPORTERS FOR HIS VICTORY. "MY CANDIDACY WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT," HE SAID. HE ALSO COMMENDED PRES PASTRANA FOR HIS IMPARTIALITY IN SPITE OF SUBSTANTIAL PRESSURE TO SUPPORT GOMEZ. HE PROMISED TO GIVE PARITY IN THE GOVERNMENT TO THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY IN SPITE OF "THE FACT THAT THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY TEMPORARILY ABANDONED ITS TRADITIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS BASED ON THE TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH, FOR A PHILOSOPHY (GOMEZ' DESARROLLISMO) DRAMATICALLY REJECTED" BY THE VOTERS. HE PAID SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE LEADERSHIP IN THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF EX-PRES MARIANO OSPINA. LOPEZ RECOGNIZED THE HIGH LEVEL OF THE DEBATE CARRIED OUT BY HIS TWO PRINCIPAL RIVALS, GOMEZ AND ANAPO CANDIDATE MARIA EUGENIA ROJAS DE MORENO. HE SAID THAT THE LOW VOTE FOR MARIA EUGENIA WAS PREDICTABLE THROUGH A CAREFUL READING OF THE INFO AVAILABLE, BUT THAT THE FOREIGN PRESS HAD GIVEN HER CAMPAIGN MORE ATTENTION THAN MERITED BECAUSE OF THE POTENTIAL NEWSWORTHINESS THAT HER VICTORY WOULD HAVE BEEN. FINALLY, HE SAID THAT HE ACCEPTED THE CLEAR MANDATE GIVEN HIM BY THE COLOMBIAN ELECTORATE, AND PROMISED TO FULFILL TO THE BEST OF HIS ABILITY HIS OBLIGATION TO THE NATION.

4. GOMEZ CONCEDED AT MIDNIGHT. HE SAID THAT HE HAD ALREADY CALLED LOPEZ TO CONCEDE THE ELECTION AND TO CONGRATULATE HIM FOR HIS SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN. GOMEZ SAID THAT HE DECIDED TO DO THIS ON THE BASIS OF PARTIAL RETURNS IN ORDER TO CONTRIBUTE TO PUBLIC PEACE, THE CONSOLIDATION OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND TO END THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN IN THIS MANNER AS A PUBLIC TRIBUTE TO THE CIVILITY WITH WHICH THE COLOMBIAN POPULACE HAD ACTED THROUGHOUT.

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5. MARIA EUGENIA ROJAS DE MORENO TOLD REPORTERS EARLY APRIL 22 SHE WOULD MAKE NO STATEMENT UNTIL LATER IN THE DAY, BUT THAT SHE WAS SATISFIED WITH HER VOTE. SHE ADDED THAT THE TWO TRADITIONAL PARTIES HAD SPENT MILLIONS OF PESOS DURING THE CAMPAIGN WHILE ANAPO HAD VERY LITTLE MONEY.

6. COLOMBIANS OF ALL PARTIES ARE JUSTIFIABLY PROUD OF THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY CARRIED OFF THE CAMPAIGN AND THE ELECTIONS.

MILLIONS OF COLOMBIANS POURED INTO THE STREETS ON SUNDAY TO VOTE
AND TO CELEBRATE THE RETURN TO PARTISAN POLITICS. SPIRITS WERE
HIGH AND COMPETITION FOR VOTES BETWEEN THE PARTIES WAS INTENSE,
BUT IT ALL CAME OFF WITH RARE GOOD HUMOR; NOT ONE SINGLE SERIOUS
INCIDENT OCCURRED IN THE NATION ON ELECTION DAY. VAKY

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